



TRANSCRIPT
Community FORUM: COVID-19
April 17, 2020 ▪ 10am via WebEx

1 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:00:04.974 --> 00:00:18.925

“Good morning. Good morning. Everyone. This is Andy Reese. Thanks for joining us. We have fifty four people on the line so far, just as a reminder we are recording this call and it will be posted on our website.

2

00:00:19.164 --> 00:00:32.725

And as soon as it can be transcribed, the transcription will also be posted on the website. And also, as a reminder, we moved the time back to ten am, so we may have a lot of people join us at ten thirty, but we move the time back to ten am

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00:00:32.725 --> 00:00:40.554

because there is a Mayor’s daily press briefing and eleven, and we want to make sure that people have an opportunity to listen to that as well.

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00:00:43.344 --> 00:00:49.585

But we have some questions today, not a long list, but I also did just want to start with an update.

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00:00:49.615 --> 00:00:59.155

So that people know, sort of the current state of things within the DDS provider community to date.

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00:00:59.424 --> 00:01:01.435

As of yesterday,

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00:01:03.204 --> 00:01:15.625

we have forty nine people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and of those close to half of them are people who are in intermediate care facilities.

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00:01:15.625 --> 00:01:27.775

In ICF, there’s twenty one people in ICF, eighteen people who are in supported living, four people who are in residential habilitation, ResHab,



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00:01:29.364 --> 00:01:43.704

Three people who are in their own homes, two people in a host home and one in a nursing home, and sadly of the forty nine who have tested positive, as of today,

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00:01:44.064 --> 00:01:47.394

we have had eight deaths.

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00:01:48.385 --> 00:02:02.784

Those deaths have been distributed about the same as our, as the distribution of cases is in terms of facility

12

00:02:02.814 --> 00:02:03.625

type or,

13

00:02:03.745 --> 00:02:04.314

placement

14

00:02:04.314 --> 00:02:06.504

Type. One person in their own home,

15

00:02:09.534 --> 00:02:18.715

five in ICF, one in a host home, and one in supported living. We'll continue to provide this update on these calls.

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00:02:19.854 --> 00:02:29.365

I know that people had seen that there's an update on the District's DC corona virus, or coronavirus.dc.gov



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00:02:29.365 --> 00:02:41.604

website regarding positive results at St. Elizabeth Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and the DC Correctional Facility.

18

00:02:42.264 --> 00:02:50.425

Those are DC run facilities. So, aside from the DC run facilities, that's the reason that these numbers are not included there.

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00:02:50.425 --> 00:03:04.705

But as I said, we'll continue providing these updates each week."

~ **Kirk Dobson:** "Director, can you just hold on one second, just want to make sure Matthew Pouncey able to reconnect. We're good?"

20 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:03:05.905 --> 00:03:06.324

"Okay.

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00:03:06.594 --> 00:03:08.305

We lost our interpreter,

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00:03:08.455 --> 00:03:22.854

so we just wanted to make sure that everyone who is participating has access. Also, just as an update this week the Mayor in her press briefing on Wednesday did focus

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00:03:23.275 --> 00:03:25.944

on vulnerable populations and DC.

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00:03:26.965 --> 00:03:28.764

As part of that press briefing,



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00:03:29.034 --> 00:03:43.824

she did announce that she had issued a new Mayoral order and that order was about the COVID public health emergency and the measures to protect vulnerable populations during this emergency.

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00:03:44.875 --> 00:03:55.254

It applies to all placements that we have for people with, people supported by us.

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00:03:55.254 --> 00:04:01.645

So it's ICF's, it's also supported living and group homes, or, I'm sorry ResHab.

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00:04:01.974 --> 00:04:02.215

So,

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00:04:02.215 --> 00:04:06.235

it's all of the settings that we support,

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00:04:08.814 --> 00:04:19.314

and it also it designates people who provide direct support services within any of the residences and facilities that are identified and in the order,

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00:04:20.964 --> 00:04:35.904

and considers that all of the staff who work directly with people are considered essential healthcare providers necessary for the District's response to COVID-19 public health emergency.

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00:04:37.165 --> 00:04:40.615

It's established protocols for the safety of employees,



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00:04:40.615 --> 00:04:55.435

and for the people that live there and this week DC Health also issued some updated guidance and that guidance addresses essentially face coverings and the requirement for that at ResHab's and ICF.

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00:04:57.175 --> 00:05:01.884

It also established as a requirement that any of our placements inform,

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00:05:02.394 --> 00:05:13.584

the appropriate, inform us, when any staff member or resident test positive for COVID-19,

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00:05:14.334 --> 00:05:19.764

it requires the placements to monitor guidance from DC

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00:05:19.764 --> 00:05:32.814

Health. So that, so that everyone can stay up to date. As people know, the information on this is evolving as the knowledge evolves and as the facts evolve.

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00:05:32.814 --> 00:05:45.714

So it's really important, as I've said, before you can look at coronavirus.dc.gov, you can also look at [DDS.dc.gov](https://dds.dc.gov) to get access to the most current information.

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00:05:47.125 --> 00:05:53.425

All of those, as they are published on our website are mailed out to our providers.

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00:05:53.725 --> 00:06:05.545

We'll issue a reminder to providers that they should share them with all the people that we support so that anyone we support has access to that information as well, regardless of their access to the internet.



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00:06:07.704 --> 00:06:14.004

And this order also extended to public health emergency, at this time, through Friday, May the fifteenth,

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00:06:14.634 --> 00:06:20.485

and all of these things take effect, actually,

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00:06:20.845 --> 00:06:25.225

they took effect at twelve o one, at midnight last night.

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00:06:25.285 --> 00:06:37.134

They all took effect. So now any questions that we have just, oh, the forty nine does include the eight deaths.

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00:06:39.384 --> 00:06:52.615

So it's forty nine people who have tested positive, to date."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Good morning everyone. Are the government checks going to folks who received SSI versus SSDI?"

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00:06:54.954 --> 00:06:57.894

Or are the super prosperous and super poor left out?"

47 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:06:59.545 --> 00:07:10.165

"So actually, I've heard from people who receive, excuse me, SSDI and SSI that direct deposits have already begun.

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00:07:11.514 --> 00:07:22.584

So, yes, the stimulus checks that are being sent out are being sent out to people who receive SSI or SSDI, based on their income.



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00:07:22.644 --> 00:07:28.314

There's, it's hard for me to imagine a person that gets SSDI, that it'll put them over income for this.

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00:07:28.709 --> 00:07:28.889

So,

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00:07:28.884 --> 00:07:43.704

I expect to go out to everyone. For people who receive SSI, those are automatically being done. For people who receive SSDI, they do need to make sure that their social security

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00:07:43.704 --> 00:07:45.384

number is registered with the government.

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00:07:47.154 --> 00:07:47.545

So,

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00:07:47.574 --> 00:07:58.014

if someone receives only SSDI, then they would want to make sure that their social security number has, that they've either filed taxes at some point,

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00:07:58.975 --> 00:08:01.134

take steps to file taxes this year,

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00:08:01.314 --> 00:08:03.894

which people can do through any of the free websites.

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00:08:04.944 --> 00:08:19.105

Typically, those websites. If you don't have to file taxes, they stop at the end and say, you don't need to do anything and don't allow you to file a return. But they have all been adjusted this year so that you can file a return. So that your social security number,



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00:08:19.134 --> 00:08:23.425

So that your information, your bank account information is with

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00:08:24.175 --> 00:08:24.894

The Treasury,

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00:08:24.894 --> 00:08:39.774

so that those checks can go out. Many people have DDS as direct payee and so those checks will come here and we'll be working with people in terms of how that gets distributed because

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00:08:39.774 --> 00:08:54.235

we also want to make sure, and people who act as rep payee for another person, should make sure that to look at the impact of these funds on any resource calculation to make sure that a person doesn't end up over resourced."

62 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:08:56.634 --> 00:09:08.245

"What if someone refuses to stay six feet away from you and are coughing, should she call the police?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "Certainly ideally, it wouldn't come to that.

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00:09:12.835 --> 00:09:19.375

It is challenging these days, you know, we, we have to sort of remember to stay, keep our distance from people.

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00:09:20.730 --> 00:09:35.215

You know, to the extent possible, if someone seems to be the kind of person who's going to get up on, you no matter what you do, you should do your best to move away from them. Could you then call the police?



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00:09:35.215 --> 00:09:47.365

Sure. I would call three, one, one, it's not a life, threatening emergency. It is an urgent issue, because you don't want a person who potentially has something to be spreading it.

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00:09:48.924 --> 00:09:49.825

Ideally,

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00:09:50.365 --> 00:09:51.115

if the person,

68

00:09:51.115 --> 00:09:51.294

like,

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00:09:51.294 --> 00:09:51.985

for example,

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00:09:51.985 --> 00:09:53.485

if you live in an apartment building,

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00:09:53.485 --> 00:09:58.465

and you have someone who stands right at the entrance to your building and coughs on people,

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00:09:59.695 --> 00:10:04.134

you might want to notify the police to say that person is not outside.

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00:10:04.254 --> 00:10:13.764

So, we, all have this stay at home order it says we can only go out for essential purposes and one of those essential purposes is going out to get exercise.



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00:10:13.975 --> 00:10:27.325

And so, while you go out to get exercise, if there's a person who is acting in this, frankly, odd manner, odd, and maybe even dangerous manner than you should notify someone of that.

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00:10:27.534 --> 00:10:31.524

So, that, you know, but I would call, I would go back into my house.

76

00:10:31.764 --> 00:10:45.804

And call three one one and ask them to stop by and talk to the person."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Directions from the nurse about putting on a mask, clarity on washing hands instructions while putting on,

77

00:10:46.139 --> 00:10:56.184

we're told three times."

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "So, the important thing is, if you put on a mask, it involves touching your face. And was very important.

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00:10:56.215 --> 00:11:04.705

Is as we always have to remember frequent hand washing,

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00:11:05.004 --> 00:11:12.384

which is washing your hands, preferably with soap and water, for at least twenty seconds.

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00:11:13.080 --> 00:11:25.735

And that is especially before, and you should never be touching your face without having first wash your hands. So if you're putting on a mask, you're about to touch your face. In the same way,

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00:11:25.735 --> 00:11:40.014

if you're taking off a mask, you're about to touch your face. There's a whole variety of masks out there right now. I've heard people get instructions on how to put a particular mask on. The mask



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00:11:40.014 --> 00:11:48.684

I use I tie in the back. So they're, like I say, they're a whole different, there's lots of different kinds of masks out there right now.

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00:11:48.684 --> 00:11:59.664

So just make sure that whoever provides you that mask also shows how you put it on, most importantly, the mask has to cover your nose and cover your mouth.

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00:12:00.085 --> 00:12:13.945

And just as a reminder to people, the reason that we're wearing masks is to protect others. You know, people may be aware, there's a certain percentage of people, I know that

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00:12:13.945 --> 00:12:15.264

COVID-19 is very scary.

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00:12:15.715 --> 00:12:30.264

And that, as, as I've already said today, we've had a number of people, Umm, forty nine people at DDS, who've contracted this. Of those forty nine, thirty eight have been have required hospitalization.

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00:12:31.284 --> 00:12:41.965

Not everyone who gets COVID-19 gets sick enough to have to go to the hospital and also not everyone who gets it even gets sick enough to know that they have it.

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00:12:42.625 --> 00:12:53.995

So, there's the possibility that you or I could have COVID-19 and not have any symptoms and that's the reason that we wear a mask when we go out.

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00:12:54.024 --> 00:12:59.245

Because if I were to cough or sneeze, because it is allergy season.



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00:12:59.754 --> 00:13:14.065

If I was one of those people who had COVID-19, and did not have other symptoms, when I go out and cough or sneeze, I could then pass it onto someone else. And that's the reason I put on a mask before I go out.

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00:13:14.784 --> 00:13:25.975

It's an order that I do, I go to the grocery store, but before I go out in public, because you might end up being close to someone when you walk down the street or if you walk into a store.

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00:13:26.304 --> 00:13:36.745

And in those instances, you really need to make sure that your face is covered to protect others. And, like I said, when you get that mask.

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00:13:37.200 --> 00:13:45.355

Talk with whoever provided it to you, whether there's any special instructions about how to make sure that you're wearing it properly to protect you and others."

94 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:13:47.815 --> 00:13:56.485

"If out of the house too long, we were told to wash clothes afterwards. Is something else going on that we don't know about? Does the virus live on our clothes?"

95 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:13:57.835 --> 00:14:12.414

"That's really a question for D. C. Health. It is not something that I have heard from anywhere. What I've heard is about it living on hard surfaces and the reason that, you know, you have to be careful anytime you touch.

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00:14:12.445 --> 00:14:21.654

Like, if you walk down steps, if you touch the railing, if you touch a table, any hard surface, the virus can live there.



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00:14:21.654 --> 00:14:32.335

I've heard that, I've not heard how long it lives on cloths. Most importantly for your own protection, once again regular hand washing.

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00:14:32.664 --> 00:14:44.664

The only way the virus gets into you is, you know, through your eyes, nose, or mouth, and it gets in, by someone sneezing near you or them sneezing on something

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00:14:44.664 --> 00:14:54.264

and you're not knowing that you've touched a place where the virus landed, And then, with your hand, touched your face. So, the most important thing is to regularly wash your hands.

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00:14:54.684 --> 00:14:57.144

If someone has given you a further instruction,

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00:14:57.414 --> 00:15:01.975

they may be going the extra mile to make sure that you and the people around you were safe."

102 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:15:05.965 --> 00:15:14.335

"Will service coordinators or other DDS staff be available to service DSPs when providers do not have enough DSPs to support everyone?"

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00:15:15.654 --> 00:15:27.955

What about people from disability advocacy organizations? Like the DD Council, or other community advocates who may have permission from their supervisor to help out in this way? Would they be allowed to serve as a DSP, if needed?"

104 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:15:30.475 --> 00:15:43.105

"So, first of all, and, I mean, I've said this in communication to the DDS staff. I also communicated this, we had a meeting this week with the Mayor, and I communicated with her,



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00:15:43.434 --> 00:15:57.595

how effectively DDS has transitioned from people working in this office to working remotely and how impressed I've been with the fact that they have been able to continue to provide services even while working remotely.

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00:15:58.075 --> 00:16:10.794

So, service coordinators, have full time jobs already, aside from any, you know, the conflicts issues that arise for anyone that works at DDS to work for a provider agency.

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00:16:11.274 --> 00:16:20.095

There's also the very real issue that our service coordinators are very busy making sure

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00:16:20.095 --> 00:16:34.225

as people may be aware, folks who were getting day services in the community, had to have authorizations, issued for services while they're remaining at home and our service coordinators had to update all of those ISPs,

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00:16:35.485 --> 00:16:45.894

they had to issue new authorizations. I have tried to communicate to them as regularly as I could how impressed I am that

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00:16:45.894 --> 00:16:56.184

they have really stepped up. That they have, that our VR counselors have been reaching out to people, making sure that services that they need are in place. So

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00:16:56.759 --> 00:16:58.434

In terms of DDS staff,

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00:16:59.095 --> 00:17:02.065

I don't know how realistic it is to expect that,

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00:17:02.215 --> 00:17:02.544

you know,



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00:17:02.544 --> 00:17:07.255

they could take on a second job in the evening, conflicts issues aside.

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00:17:08.065 --> 00:17:09.444

In terms of providers,

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00:17:09.444 --> 00:17:11.875

and their ability to maintain adequate staff,

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00:17:12.144 --> 00:17:20.964

One of the changes that we made in our appendix K was to provide as much flexibility as we could around Pre -

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00:17:20.964 --> 00:17:21.924

employment,

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00:17:21.984 --> 00:17:27.835

training and screening requirements so that they can bring on people quickly.

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00:17:28.105 --> 00:17:43.015

And I know that their, the Executive Director of the Provider Coalition has reached out to Department of Employment Services to make them aware of employment opportunities with provider agencies.

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00:17:43.884 --> 00:17:58.674

The district has seen an explosion in a number of people who are currently not working, and some of those people who are not able to work in their regular jobs. May well, be very appropriate to move over to, to temporarily become DSPs.

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00:17:59.755 --> 00:18:04.884

Some of them, may find that they like that and may find a new career as they make that transition.



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00:18:05.244 --> 00:18:14.785

So that's what we're doing to try and help out the provider agencies with any future issues with their staffing.

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00:18:15.265 --> 00:18:21.984

We do, by the way, check up with them, at least weekly on the status of their staffing and supplies.

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00:18:21.984 --> 00:18:35.125

So we are monitoring that with them and doing what we can to support.

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Can DDS ask DC Health for PPEs for service providers?"

126 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:18:36.505 --> 00:18:36.714

So,

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00:18:36.714 --> 00:18:41.095

we have connected all of our providers with "HEPRA",

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00:18:42.174 --> 00:18:53.605

which is the Health Emergency and Preparedness Response Administration at DC Health

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00:18:57.894 --> 00:19:12.835

And they have been working with the providers to make sure that the providers have the PPE that they need. We have heard from some providers concerns about the adequacy of their PPE, we connect them immediately with DC Health.

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00:19:13.105 --> 00:19:24.595

What I have noticed is that the providers who are expressing the concern aren't ones who have a need right now they're looking at their current stock pile and saying, it's not enough to last.



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131
00:19:24.805 --> 00:19:25.315
So,

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00:19:25.674 --> 00:19:28.375
in working with the providers,

133
00:19:28.884 --> 00:19:31.615
as anyone who watches the news knows,

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00:19:32.724 --> 00:19:33.625
having enough PPE,

135
00:19:35.154 --> 00:19:35.664
personal,

136
00:19:35.664 --> 00:19:36.805
protective equipment,

137
00:19:36.835 --> 00:19:37.525
masks,

138
00:19:37.585 --> 00:19:38.244
gowns,

139
00:19:38.275 --> 00:19:40.795
gloves is an issue across the country.

140
00:19:41.365 --> 00:19:47.035
And so, DC Health is wanting to make sure that people who have a need today, have it today.



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00:19:47.394 --> 00:20:02.365

So, when they as they've been distributing what, they have, they have checked about, who needs it today, make sure that they have it today. And they also have the requests from providers about what their future needs are to make sure

142

00:20:02.365 --> 00:20:09.565

that no one gets to a point where they have a need for it today and don't have access to it on any given day."

143 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:20:17.545 --> 00:20:22.285

"Okay. So, let's take some questions from our, our chat box."

144 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:20:41.694 --> 00:20:42.654

"What do it say?"

145 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:20:47.964 --> 00:20:50.154

"Give us two minutes, we're having technical difficulty.

146 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:21:11.634 --> 00:21:12.055

"Okay,

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00:21:12.085 --> 00:21:19.375

Are test kits available for support living facilities? Are those tests performed on location?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "So currently,

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00:21:19.375 --> 00:21:20.845

in terms of testing,

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00:21:23.339 --> 00:21:25.434

they're not done on location.



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00:21:25.765 --> 00:21:33.234

If you go to Coronavirus.dc.gov, you can learn about testing in the District.

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00:21:34.045 --> 00:21:47.515

There are priorities for testing, but all of those priorities include testing for people who have symptoms. There's, but there are particular locations where someone can go and get the testing done.

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00:21:48.505 --> 00:21:59.605

And the guidance for that is available on DC's coronavirus.dc.gov. And people should talk to their provider if they have questions about that."

153 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:22:10.410 --> 00:22:11.099

"Okay,

154

00:22:13.525 --> 00:22:25.974

what system has DDS created to track direct care staff who work for multiple providers to track exposure?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "So there's a couple of things. One for people who were on the call

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00:22:25.974 --> 00:22:33.625

right at the beginning, I did read the Mayor's order, which requires providers now to provide us information about any staff who test positive.

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00:22:35.515 --> 00:22:46.555

We are making sure that we've collected from all of our providers the names of their staff, and we're requiring providers to enter a reportable incident

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00:22:46.734 --> 00:22:48.865

whenever they're aware of a staff person.



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00:22:49.134 --> 00:22:54.355

We asked them not to include the staff person's name but in the reportable incident,

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00:22:54.355 --> 00:22:56.275

because we do want to be cautious,

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00:22:56.575 --> 00:23:02.335

not to have those names and personal health information,

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00:23:02.335 --> 00:23:04.319

in our system.

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00:23:04.434 --> 00:23:16.944

But we are then reaching out with them and maintaining that separately, so that we can look at who has tested positive, and, you know, have a an accurate current list of who has tested positive

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00:23:16.944 --> 00:23:25.884

and where they live. It is very challenging for a number of reasons. First of all people may not report to their employers that they have tested positive.

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00:23:27.565 --> 00:23:35.394

We and part of the Mayor's order requires that before people start work each day, they'd be screened, including our temperature checked.

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00:23:35.664 --> 00:23:35.994

So,

166

00:23:35.994 --> 00:23:37.795

if anyone currently were sick,



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167

00:23:38.335 --> 00:23:46.045

the provider would have an obligation to not allow them to work. Aside from the guidance that's already been provided for all people that if you're sick,

168

00:23:46.045 --> 00:23:56.454

you should stay home providers should also be making sure that people don't come to work sick. But a person may or may not tell their provider that they're out,

169

00:23:56.454 --> 00:24:01.555

because they suspect they have COVID-19. It is their personal health information.

170

00:24:02.755 --> 00:24:05.275

In some instances where providers have learned it,

171

00:24:05.305 --> 00:24:08.275

They've been reluctant to turn that information over to us,

172

00:24:08.515 --> 00:24:19.105

because they feel that it's protected information of their employee and so sharing that information for them they feel is a violation of that health insurance,

173

00:24:19.105 --> 00:24:20.964

portability and accountability act,

174

00:24:20.994 --> 00:24:35.244

"HIPPA". I believe that the Mayor's order could trump that, but, you know, those, we'll have to see. And we'll keep moving forward.

175

00:24:35.244 --> 00:24:35.575

So,



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176
00:24:35.755 --> 00:24:43.224
we are trying to track that. Honestly,

177
00:24:43.224 --> 00:24:54.474
one of the bigger challenges there is not knowing, not a challenge of having someone who is sick and working for a provider,

178
00:24:55.045 --> 00:25:09.355
or someone who has a laboratory confirmed positive result but the possibility that you have people who have COVID-19 and no

179
00:25:09.355 --> 00:25:11.305
symptoms and are there,

180
00:25:11.394 --> 00:25:13.194
that could potentially spread it.

181
00:25:13.255 --> 00:25:19.525
And that's the reason in the guidance that came out this week, and from the Mayor's order about people wearing face covering."

182 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**
00:25:24.085 --> 00:25:37.345
"If a person in supported living has private doctors, what role will they play if that person test positive?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "I'm not clear about that question exactly."

183 ~ **Winslow Woodland:**
00:25:39.775 --> 00:25:53.515
"So, to the extent that the person has a primary doctor that doctor would be responsible for that person's health, this emergency does not, to my knowledge, change

184
00:25:53.545 --> 00:26:00.865
any of those relationships that people have with their primary care physicians"



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~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “And our health and wellness staff,

185

00:26:00.865 --> 00:26:14.785

and the provider staff, would work out would reach out to that provider in the same way we would with any Medicaid provider to talk with them about ensuring that person's health and the health of the people around them. Also keep in mind,

186

00:26:15.055 --> 00:26:16.765

COVID-19 is reportable.

187

00:26:16.914 --> 00:26:17.095

So,

188

00:26:17.095 --> 00:26:27.505

the doctor would be reporting at to DC Health, DC Health would be aware of it and also would be intervening. Or for those people who are in supported living in,

189

00:26:27.984 --> 00:26:28.914

in Maryland,

190

00:26:29.125 --> 00:26:29.424

you know,

191

00:26:29.424 --> 00:26:29.755

the,

192

00:26:29.785 --> 00:26:32.664

the respective local county health department.”

193 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:26:37.704 --> 00:26:48.984

“Okay. Have there been any discussions on whether RSA or the Medicaid waiver will reimburse for services provided remotely through a technology such as FaceTime or Zoom?”



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194 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:26:51.474 --> 00:26:57.924

"Yes, and perhaps we've only discussed this on our provider call.

195

00:27:00.684 --> 00:27:13.795

So, telehealth where there are services provided by any particular analyzed health professional, the rules for those have been significantly relaxed recently.

196

00:27:14.904 --> 00:27:24.444

And but it's really up to each provider to be aware, you know, each health professional to know what their profession allows in terms of telehealth.

197

00:27:24.714 --> 00:27:31.105

And then to make sure that the provision of that service can be done effectively via telehealth.

198

00:27:32.605 --> 00:27:42.115

But, you know, those, those are allowed and encouraged. To the extent a person does not have to go to a doctor's office, they should not go to a doctor's office.

199

00:27:43.134 --> 00:27:52.585

And in terms of RSA, we posted guidance for day and employment providers on our website,

200

00:27:53.515 --> 00:27:57.775

and that addresses the provisions,

201

00:27:58.285 --> 00:27:58.585

you know,

202

00:27:59.454 --> 00:28:10.434

what kinds of steps in RSA a provider would need to take in order to provide services remotely, RSA is much more flexible.



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203

00:28:10.434 --> 00:28:18.115

The vocational rehabilitation and independent living services are much more flexible, because we didn't have an existing requirement.

204

00:28:19.674 --> 00:28:30.144

In most cases that a service be face to face, and to the extent we did, we clarified in this guidance that face to face included FaceTime.”

205 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:28:32.394 --> 00:28:41.755

“Are DSPs now required to wear face masks if they are working near the person they support?”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “Yes.

206

00:28:45.325 --> 00:28:59.065

So, we'll get more information about that, but that's on the guidance from DC Health and people can look at the current guidance. It's on our website. It was sent this week to all of our providers.”

~ **Kirk Dobson:** “And director, this is Kirk,

207

00:28:59.095 --> 00:29:04.884

I'm sharing the link once again in the chat box right now for anyone who wants to get our links and all of our guidance documents.”

208 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:29:22.884 --> 00:29:35.275

“Will a person receiving SSI and DDA residential supports be able to keep the stimulus funds, or is DDS planning to collect a stimulus check as part of the person's contribution to costs or residential support?”

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00:29:35.634 --> 00:29:36.355

In other words,

210

00:29:36.355 --> 00:29:38.184

does DDS plan to take all,



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211

00:29:38.184 --> 00:29:43.464

but a hundred dollars of the combined total SSI, DI and stimulus check?"

212 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:29:45.865 --> 00:29:51.325

"There is no plan at this time for us to take all but a hundred dollars of the stimulus check.

213

00:29:51.325 --> 00:30:05.875

Our expectation at this time is that those funds will go to the person. We will want to make sure that we work out with them provisions to make sure that these funds don't cause people to be over resourced and lose Medicaid."

214 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:30:20.065 --> 00:30:34.944

"How many staff are you aware of that tested positive?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "So we have reports from our providers to date of forty

215

00:30:34.944 --> 00:30:37.075

eight staff who I've tested positive.

216

00:30:38.184 --> 00:30:52.795

I have to say we're following up on those to ensure that some of those are not including contacts rather than actual positive result by the person because there are a couple of them

217

00:30:53.214 --> 00:30:55.525

that look suspect to me.

218

00:30:55.914 --> 00:30:58.825

But, and as I said.

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00:31:09.924 --> 00:31:12.055

So, also keep in mind.



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220

00:31:12.055 --> 00:31:20.664

Some of the providers are not reporting names as I had said before there is now the Mayors order that requires them to report and so,

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00:31:20.664 --> 00:31:24.265

we're hoping that will result in us,

222

00:31:24.265 --> 00:31:25.825

having more accurate,

223

00:31:25.825 --> 00:31:27.595

current information on this.

224

00:31:28.434 --> 00:31:35.515

So there could be where people are reported twice and one provider didn't give a name that could be the same person.

225

00:31:35.845 --> 00:31:50.664

My other concern about it is making sure as we get those reports that it is accurately reflecting an actual positive result by the person. Keeping in mind as well, having looked at some of these there have been staff who have had COVID-19,

226

00:31:50.664 --> 00:31:53.005

Who have recovered and are back at work.

227

00:31:53.369 --> 00:31:53.910

So,

228

00:31:54.414 --> 00:31:54.835

you know,

229

00:31:54.894 --> 00:32:00.924

the staff are exposed to this to the same degree



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230

00:32:00.924 --> 00:32:08.815

other people are, in terms of the possibility for community transmission and so that's,

231

00:32:09.325 --> 00:32:11.095

why it is important that when they,

232

00:32:11.424 --> 00:32:13.404

Feel sick, that they stay home.”

233 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:32:13.799 --> 00:32:22.914

“Do you expect people with disability to wear a mask as well?”

234 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:32:25.494 --> 00:32:32.634

“In certain circumstances yes. So when they're going out, they should do the same thing as other people do.

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00:32:32.875 --> 00:32:33.325

So,

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00:32:33.325 --> 00:32:34.075

when you've got,

237

00:32:34.075 --> 00:32:34.825

for example,

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00:32:34.825 --> 00:32:35.275

though,

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00:32:35.634 --> 00:32:38.305

people who have been at home and aren't leaving the home,



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240
00:32:38.904 --> 00:32:39.384
but the,

241
00:32:39.444 --> 00:32:41.484
the guidance speaks to this,

242
00:32:41.904 --> 00:32:43.974
the guidance from DC Health speaks to this,

243
00:32:44.305 --> 00:32:48.625
in terms of if people are in close contact with each other,

244
00:32:48.625 --> 00:32:54.414
that they should have masks on to make sure to reduce the risk of any transmission between them.

245
00:32:55.315 --> 00:32:57.805
And that would especially be true if they're going out."

246 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**
00:33:09.924 --> 00:33:13.585
"Is OCFO accepting contribution to care checks for April yet?"

247 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**
00:33:14.934 --> 00:33:22.434
"I have a question into them about this, and so, OCFO is on reduced operations,

248
00:33:22.434 --> 00:33:27.295
but they are there and I know originally they were not going to, but given the,

249
00:33:27.355 --> 00:33:27.954
they were saying,



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00:33:27.954 --> 00:33:33.414

just hold off on sending anything in because we'll be opening after April twenty seventh,

251

00:33:33.414 --> 00:33:35.244

which we now know is not accurate,

252

00:33:36.565 --> 00:33:42.474

but I will have to check back with our AFO. I know that he was trying to work out with them

253

00:33:42.684 --> 00:33:52.345

how this would work. AFO is accepting checks, because we receive checks here and send them over there for deposit."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Okay.

254

00:33:53.335 --> 00:34:00.565

If there are any other questions, if you can type that into the text box and we'll hold for a moment.

255 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:34:46.320 --> 00:34:59.394

"So someone again asked this question about whether SSI checks, or whether people who receive SSI and SSDI are eligible for the stimulus checks, they are eligible. In many instances.

256

00:34:59.394 --> 00:35:13.014

they've already received them. Some people should make sure that their direct deposit information is with the government. So, for someone who gets SSI or SSDI, and has direct deposit, you're good to go.

257

00:35:14.485 --> 00:35:27.204

If someone somehow still gets a check in the mail, which I'm not sure anyone does that anymore. Then you need to make sure that that you have filed sort of a zero income tax return.



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258

00:35:27.715 --> 00:35:33.715

And so that the government has direct deposit information.

259

00:35:36.655 --> 00:35:38.364

The information,

260

00:35:38.394 --> 00:35:41.454

the DC Health guidance for providers,

261

00:35:41.724 --> 00:35:53.335

which this relates to providers in ResHab and ICF, FYI, went out on Wednesday.

262

00:35:53.784 --> 00:36:01.824

It was issued by DC Health this week. So, there was a question about when providers receive this information.

263

00:36:01.824 --> 00:36:11.364

That's when they received it. Which it is, it is not new information that.

264

00:36:11.394 --> 00:36:25.284

So, the Mayor issued guidance about people wearing and so when we talk about face masks and the guidance, that went out, provide a very clear guidance to providers about the use of surgical masks,

265

00:36:25.344 --> 00:36:33.505

N95 masks and cloth face masks, along with guidance on how you can make those yourself at home.

266

00:36:34.344 --> 00:36:45.295

So one of the things we've talked about here is, what are some activities that people could do while they're stuck at home. One of those activities is participate in making masks.



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267

00:36:46.375 --> 00:36:50.065B

Because the, really face coverings.

268

00:36:50.094 --> 00:36:58.945

So the cloth face covering is something that's very easy to make. I have seen that

269

00:37:00.324 --> 00:37:11.905

Quality Trust has been working with some providers where Quality Trust is getting volunteers who have been making face masks to provide to provider organizations.

270

00:37:12.894 --> 00:37:15.894

I saw on Carol Grisby's blog.

271

00:37:16.224 --> 00:37:19.855

She made much higher quality face masks then I have made,

272

00:37:20.545 --> 00:37:25.855

but there are instructions about how to make face masks for yourself either a very simple version,

273

00:37:25.855 --> 00:37:28.074

which includes just cutting up a T -

274

00:37:28.074 --> 00:37:28.585

shirt,

275

00:37:28.614 --> 00:37:40.644

folding it appropriately and using rubber bands or there's also instructions about how to make the ties and have a nice neat looking one, like those wonderful ones I saw on your blog Carol, if you're here.



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276

00:37:43.074 --> 00:37:57.264

So, but it is an activity that people could engage in at the home. You know, I've seen, like, I saw RCM's website this week, all the different activities that they've engaged different people with while they're at home.

277

00:37:58.284 --> 00:38:03.385

And if people haven't seen that and you're looking for ideas about things to do, that would be a good place to go.

278

00:38:03.385 --> 00:38:18.235

Because they had really neat stuff about different things people had been doing while they're at home, but the guidance has gone out. People should be aware just the issue that, you know.

279

00:38:19.824 --> 00:38:20.695

As I said,

280

00:38:21.355 --> 00:38:22.764

none of us know

281

00:38:22.795 --> 00:38:27.414

whether we currently may have COVID-19 and if I went and,

282

00:38:27.445 --> 00:38:27.744

you know,

283

00:38:27.744 --> 00:38:30.324

was able to get a test somewhere today,

284

00:38:30.835 --> 00:38:45.474

I would know whether I had it today but I wouldn't know whether I had it next Monday and so that's why it's very important that all of us protect other people and I know we talked I talked about this some last



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285

00:38:45.474 --> 00:38:52.974

week about people who live in homes when the provider staff come and see that the staff are wearing a face covering.

286

00:38:53.364 --> 00:39:06.385

It's not because they're afraid of you, it's because they're protecting you. Because the fact that they have to travel to get to work means that they are out in the community where people get this.

287

00:39:07.769 --> 00:39:17.664

You know, if you're able to stay at home and not going out the way people should be staying at home, then you are really reducing your risk of getting this.

288

00:39:17.934 --> 00:39:22.644

And the only contact then with the community is the people who are coming into the home.

289

00:39:22.974 --> 00:39:32.875

And that's why those people coming into the home should use face covering."

~ **Crystal Thomas:** "Are the stimulus

290

00:39:32.875 --> 00:39:33.235

checks

291

00:39:33.264 --> 00:39:34.315

considered income?"

292 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:39:37.974 --> 00:39:45.864

No. So, but I don't want be a benefits counselor here. I mean, these are checks that are coming from the government.

293

00:39:46.644 --> 00:39:52.824

It is an asset and this is the reason for the folks that we support,



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294

00:39:53.005 --> 00:40:01.675

we're gonna make sure, we want to make sure with you, that those funds are paid over to people in a manner that the person does not become over resourced.

295

00:40:02.065 --> 00:40:14.695

I don't believe, I've not heard any discussion of this, but I've not talked to a benefits counselor about it. I don't believe that Social Security is reducing people's checks as though this work earned income.

296

00:40:17.844 --> 00:40:29.605

It's an interesting question. I haven't heard anyone pose it to date, but I don't believe that it is. Because if it were, then the government would be giving out money and then taking a portion of it back from all these people.

297

00:40:29.605 --> 00:40:33.565

It just feels like a whole lot of work that I don't think they have time for right now."

298 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:40:37.465 --> 00:40:43.554

"Have you received any feedback from CMS on appendix K? Do you plan to submit any amendments

299

00:40:44.905 --> 00:40:56.005

to the original submission?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "Yeah. And maybe it was with, you know, I get the two calls confused. Immediately after the submission,

300

00:40:56.005 --> 00:41:03.565

so last week the appendix K was submitted on Tuesday, and we had a conference call with CMS on Thursday.

301

00:41:03.869 --> 00:41:12.594

I know that was also a meeting either following the submission or following the drafting of the appendix K.



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302

00:41:12.594 --> 00:41:13.675

There was a meeting between DHCF

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00:41:14.664 --> 00:41:28.525

and some folks from the provider coalition and other provider networks about what was included there and so some changes have been made and as soon as that final has been approved,

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00:41:29.605 --> 00:41:31.105

we will publish the final.

305

00:41:32.695 --> 00:41:45.505

There's no, so, the sort of the outline of the appendix K, and what it includes will be unchanged.

306

00:41:45.775 --> 00:41:58.764

There are some adjustments regarding explaining clearly how, what the rates are, and how the retainer payments are made and there's some other adjustments,

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00:41:59.485 --> 00:42:01.105

based on feedback that we got.

308

00:42:02.034 --> 00:42:09.954

But overall, the summary that we've given to date, the summaries that we've given to date are accurate."

309 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:42:13.315 --> 00:42:24.625

Can people get corona from pets? Including petting dogs, man's best friend?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "It's a, you know, I'm reluctant to answer some of these very specific questions.



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310

00:42:24.625 --> 00:42:38.695

I have heard guidance that you should be careful about petting a dog, because someone else may have just petted the dog. In terms of Corona virus, living on surfaces. As I said, the guidance that I have read, has spoken to hard services.

311

00:42:39.119 --> 00:42:49.675

But but there, if, you know, if people look up the guidance, you will see things about petting animals when other people pet the animals.

312

00:42:50.039 --> 00:42:57.894

So, there is like, some warnings about, you know, your dog, the dog park, and such. Not only that, at the dog park

313

00:42:57.894 --> 00:43:05.994

we all tend to stand too close so people shouldn't be at those places right now you should walk your dog, on a leash, which is required in the District anyway."

314 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:43:12.625 --> 00:43:25.764

"Okay, when did providers receive guidance to wear a mask?"

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** "As I said, the guidance it went out this week was specifically directed to residential habilitation and intermediate care facilities.

315

00:43:25.795 --> 00:43:36.864

So that was not to supported living. There are a number of providers based on the guidance from the Mayor, that people should be wearing face covering, cloth face covering.

316

00:43:37.135 --> 00:43:48.474

If they are... The issue is that you should wear it when you go out. The order says, if you go to the grocery store, you can't go in a grocery store without a cloth face, covering on.

317

00:43:48.925 --> 00:43:53.485

And there are other circumstances where the order says people have to wear face coverings.

318

00:43:56.994 --> 00:44:03.655

Many of our providers have begun requiring their staff to where face covering for the very reason that I said,

319

00:44:03.655 --> 00:44:04.824

which is that,

320

00:44:05.460 --> 00:44:05.815

you know,

321

00:44:06.025 --> 00:44:16.224

a person could have it and not know that they have it and so I don't believe that it is a requirement in the order,

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00:44:16.224 --> 00:44:29.994

but it is certainly a best practice because if you are going to, the description that I heard from listening to the Mayor's press briefing last week,

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00:44:29.994 --> 00:44:31.735

when they talked about the issue of face,

324

00:44:31.735 --> 00:44:33.925

covering by

325

00:44:36.835 --> 00:44:49.195

Dr. Nesbitt from the D. C. Health department, was that the reason for face covering is, first of all people should be very aware, it is not because when you go outside, you could breathe in Corona virus.

326

00:44:49.494 --> 00:44:53.065

It's not the corona viruses in the air outdoors.



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327
00:44:53.574 --> 00:44:54.355
It is,

328
00:44:54.414 --> 00:44:55.255
however,

329
00:44:55.945 --> 00:44:58.284
two things, well,

330
00:44:58.315 --> 00:44:59.244
two related things,

331
00:44:59.244 --> 00:45:01.315
which is you're protecting other people,

332
00:45:01.315 --> 00:45:05.905
but you're also protecting yourself when you are in places,

333
00:45:05.905 --> 00:45:11.965
where you cannot maintain appropriate social distance,

334
00:45:11.965 --> 00:45:13.914
which means two arms length.

335
00:45:14.244 --> 00:45:27.474
So, you know, if you hold out your arms and the other person does your fingers can't touch. If staff are getting closer than that to the people, they support, they should have face covering on. A cloth face covering.

336
00:45:27.775 --> 00:45:31.074
There's also specific guidance for licensed facilities. In D.C.



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337

00:45:31.074 --> 00:45:45.295

about when they need to wear particular face coverings. Depending on the person they're supporting, that person's current health status and the kind of work that they're doing with that person.

338

00:45:46.139 --> 00:45:59.574

I understand.

339

00:45:59.574 --> 00:46:10.434

So, there's a question about is OCFO not just getting checks, but depositing them. They wanted to make sure that they don't accept to check before they have a way to deposit it. So very much. If they get the check, the check will be deposited."

340 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:46:12.480 --> 00:46:20.335

"Can you emphasize to providers to ensure persons don't disclose any personal information to scammers regarding their stimulus checks?"

341 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:46:28.885 --> 00:46:43.704

"I think you just did. I mean, I think, you know, this time is really sad. Whenever there's a crisis, there are people out there trying to take advantage of other people. Anyone that calls and asks for identifying information over the phone,

342

00:46:45.594 --> 00:46:59.485

there should always be real caution about providing that if you can. If you didn't initiate that call, then you shouldn't be providing that information. I can't tell you the number of times

343

00:46:59.485 --> 00:47:08.065

I've gotten calls about my social security and, you know, they've got to hear from me, and they need particular identifying information.

344

00:47:08.335 --> 00:47:21.534

People should always be very careful about providing personal information over the telephone, including your date of birth, address, your social security number, especially! I see



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345

00:47:21.534 --> 00:47:26.184

a comment from Carol saying stimulus checks don't count against assets for the year.

346

00:47:31.255 --> 00:47:37.315

Thank you. I'd like to see the support for that so that I can say that confidently.

347

00:47:38.005 --> 00:47:46.614

I'm not questioning you of course, but I just want to, you know, I've asked people how that gets counted in terms of people's resources and don't have an answer yet.

348

00:47:46.914 --> 00:47:56.815

So, if people have the citation, that would be very helpful because, you know, it's also going to be important that the Medicaid folks in DC know that.

349

00:47:57.150 --> 00:48:03.954

Because that's our biggest concern, is that people continue to be eligible for Medicaid that they not be over resourced for that."

350 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:48:05.875 --> 00:48:13.644

"Does DDS have any guidance of burial of those people or persons who passed away from COVID? Is there any funding?"

351 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:48:18.510 --> 00:48:29.905

"So those are those are worked out on a case by case basis and as that occurs someone should talked to

352

00:48:29.905 --> 00:48:32.184

Their service coordinator,

353

00:48:32.184 --> 00:48:35.005

and then they can talk to their supervisor on up the chain.



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354

00:48:51.894 --> 00:49:04.255

So I'm reading a comment that sounds, it sounds as though face covering should be a requirement in SL (Supported Living), but it sounds as though you're leaving it up to the individual providers. We're actually deferring to DC Health guidance.

355

00:49:04.590 --> 00:49:17.364

So, and we have posted all the DC Health guidance on our website, and so, you know, that's what we rely on and what the providers need to rely on.

356

00:49:17.635 --> 00:49:24.594

So in instances where staff are able to maintain social distance,

357

00:49:24.804 --> 00:49:28.014

it may be that face coverings are not necessary,

358

00:49:28.315 --> 00:49:33.505

but in instances where they aren't sure that they can maintain that at all times,

359

00:49:33.715 --> 00:49:40.554

then they should have face coverings on. But the guidance and so,

360

00:49:40.675 --> 00:49:51.355

and all guidance has gone out so far has been from DC Health, it hasn't really been from us and,

361

00:49:51.385 --> 00:49:51.655

you know,

362

00:49:51.655 --> 00:49:55.224

we'll make sure that DC Health weighs in on these questions."

363 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:49:56.579 --> 00:50:08.304

"Okay. One moment we're reading the, the questions in a text box one moment."



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364 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:50:13.315 --> 00:50:28.164

“So, there's another question here that's come in about more general technical questions. Why are we using Cisco WebEx versus zoom or another platform? So I'll respond to that one. So, Cisco WebEx is really the best one for..the best tool that we have for this particular meeting.

365

00:50:29.005 --> 00:50:38.275

The District of Columbia has advice against using zoom, because there's been some concerns around the privacy of zoom as a platform for these kind of meetings.

366

00:50:38.545 --> 00:50:53.304

So, at this time, no agency in District Columbia, using zoom. We are continuously looking for other platforms that could provide vendor forum to have these meetings. And so we'll continue to investigate. But at this time, WebEx seems to be the best platform for these kind of meetings.”

367 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:50:57.985 --> 00:50:58.224

“So,

368

00:50:58.224 --> 00:50:59.815

and I see the link that says,

369

00:50:59.815 --> 00:51:00.594

essentially,

370

00:51:00.925 --> 00:51:01.434

thank you,

371

00:51:01.465 --> 00:51:03.775

Morgan and Alison essentially,

372

00:51:03.775 --> 00:51:13.255

that the stimulus check, my interpretation, would be is that it is treated like any lump sum payment from social security,



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373

00:51:13.405 --> 00:51:16.675

which is, it doesn't count as an asset for one year.

374

00:51:17.815 --> 00:51:28.554

So you still have to be careful of your resources at the end of that year. So you would still have to pay attention to it, but that you have twelve months to deal with it as an asset.”

375 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:51:34.465 --> 00:51:42.414

“Okay, are there any other questions? We have a couple more minutes.”

376 **Director Andrew Reese**

00:51:55.974 --> 00:52:08.094

‘So there are two different things. So Morgan Whitlatch has asked the Mayors order applies to too all? It applies. As I said

377

00:52:08.094 --> 00:52:08.755

before it does,

378

00:52:08.755 --> 00:52:14.755

it applies to all placements. The issue regarding face coverings and any change related to that

379

00:52:14.934 --> 00:52:27.085

this week is guidance that went out this week from DC health, specifically to ResHab’s and ICF’s. So that was two facilities licensed by the District.

380

00:52:34.344 --> 00:52:35.155

So.

381

00:52:37.045 --> 00:52:40.644

I'll pull up the Mayor’s orders since we have,



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382

00:52:41.215 --> 00:52:54.114

Oh, we had seven minutes and I don't believe that the Mayor's order specifically says anything, but I, I will look at the Mayor's order."

383 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

00:53:03.594 --> 00:53:07.855

"So, while the, one second. We're having a technical difficulty."

384 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:53:22.465 --> 00:53:35.784

"Okay, pending his placement in a supported living facility. My son is receiving in home support with one DSP. Does she have to wear masks?"

~ **Winslow Woodland:** "As the director repeated, cloth

385

00:53:35.784 --> 00:53:43.045

mask are recommended for people who have to support someone within a six foot range.

386

00:53:43.525 --> 00:53:56.454

It doesn't mean that she has it, but she would be then protecting your son if she's traveling or if, you know, she herself happens to be a carrier. That's not symptomatic.

387

00:53:57.175 --> 00:54:00.085

I mean, that asymptomatic, without symptoms."

388 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:54:13.525 --> 00:54:13.824

"So,

389

00:54:13.824 --> 00:54:18.684

in terms of the provisions that are put in place for everything,

390

00:54:18.684 --> 00:54:20.545

covered by the Mayor's order,



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391

00:54:21.025 --> 00:54:27.864

this is not the recent guidance from DC Health, requires screening all people,

392

00:54:27.864 --> 00:54:34.885

including employees and visitors before they come into any placement,

393

00:54:34.885 --> 00:54:38.664

which includes a questionnaire about whether the person is currently exhibiting,

394

00:54:38.664 --> 00:54:41.545

or has recently exhibited any symptoms,

395

00:54:41.844 --> 00:54:48.235

or has been in contact with a person recently diagnosed with COVID-19 and checking temperatures.

396

00:54:49.105 --> 00:55:00.534

Emergency personnel are exempted from that. Exclude from the facility any employee or visitor who has a fever or exhibit symptoms. Screen

397

00:55:00.565 --> 00:55:02.905

all people who share a common area.

398

00:55:03.324 --> 00:55:05.304

This is more for bigger facilities,

399

00:55:06.085 --> 00:55:11.454

like such as a ward, unit, floor, a restroom, well

400

00:55:11.485 --> 00:55:24.025

with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19 require each person entering the facility to wash their hands with soap and water for at least twenty seconds before,



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401

00:55:24.054 --> 00:55:27.264
when they enter, cancel all group activities,

402

00:55:27.264 --> 00:55:35.275
except those that are required to address medical needs, encourage employees and residents to practice social distancing.

403

00:55:37.315 --> 00:55:41.695
Including not engaging in any unnecessary physical contact,

404

00:55:42.175 --> 00:55:43.284
provide adequate

405

00:55:43.405 --> 00:55:44.664
sanitizing products,

406

00:55:44.664 --> 00:55:46.945
including soap,

407

00:55:47.275 --> 00:55:53.695
disinfectant wipes at all entry and exit, restrict the seating

408

00:55:53.724 --> 00:56:08.425
so that people are at least six feet apart or provide grab and go, encouraging facilities to use electronic communication for video conferencing. If an in person visit is required, the visit must take place and compliance with their policies.

409

00:56:08.875 --> 00:56:22.315
Facilities are encouraged to provide private secure video or telephone communication platforms for lawyers or guardians, implement regular disinfection procedures for cleaning high touch surfaces,



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410

00:56:22.614 --> 00:56:26.034

which means washing down everything regularly.

411

00:56:29.815 --> 00:56:43.614

And require that individuals, who've left the facility for care at a hospital for COVID – 19 or for another approved reason to be allowed to return to the facility. So, those are the requirements that are there.

412

00:56:44.905 --> 00:56:56.574

They didn't want to include specific things beyond that. Because the DC Health guidance gets updated as appropriate and so, as I said, there was guidance that went out this week.

413

00:56:56.574 --> 00:57:05.815

There's also, there have been other guidance that are posted on our website, which should be read and they should all be read together.

414

00:57:06.025 --> 00:57:14.514

So that people can see exactly when the use of a cloth face covering, a surgical mask, or an N95 is considered appropriate.

415

00:57:15.025 --> 00:57:25.675

And the one that came out this week, especially identify specific procedures that could occur in one of our placements where a N95 mask might be needed.

416

00:57:28.135 --> 00:57:30.025

The earlier guidance is very clear,

417

00:57:30.025 --> 00:57:34.914

there's guidance about conservation of personal protective equipment,

418

00:57:35.155 --> 00:57:42.690

and there's guidance about when to use face coverings and people should read all of those together.”



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~ **Kirk Dobson:** “Director,

419

00:57:42.684 --> 00:57:43.704
the Mayor’s press conferences

420

00:57:43.704 --> 00:57:44.215
Has now begun,

421

00:57:44.215 --> 00:57:47.815
so we have time for two more questions.”
~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “Oh, okay.

422 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:57:59.605 --> 00:58:03.534
“Okay, can we have a moment of silence for the people who have died?”

423 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:58:29.275 --> 00:58:39.054
“Given that we are almost done, I do want to, because I want people to have the opportunity to see the Mayor’s press briefing and I also want that opportunity.

424

00:58:43.105 --> 00:58:49.675
So, for people who can’t read the comments here, someone asked where was I reading that guidance from?

425

00:58:49.675 --> 00:58:59.844
I was reading it from the Mayor’s order, which came out this week, which will be posted on our website once it’s converted to an accessible format.

426

00:58:59.844 --> 00:59:10.675
Because the one that we received was actually not accessible, we will make sure that an accessible version of the Mayor’s order is available on our Web site within a week.”

427 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

00:59:32.215 --> 00:59:41.034
“Why are directions for social distancing only stated in one metrics? Not everybody understand feet.”



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428 ~ **Director Andrew Reese:**

00:59:42.414 --> 00:59:43.195

"So the reason,

429

00:59:43.195 --> 00:59:45.235

anytime I have addressed this,

430

00:59:45.505 --> 00:59:47.545

I've tried to say that it's six feet,

431

00:59:47.784 --> 00:59:56.514

which is pretty much, hold your arms out and the other person has their arms out. Two arm's length between people gets you

432

00:59:56.514 --> 00:59:56.724

to,

433

00:59:56.724 --> 01:00:00.414

about six feet. Make sure that if you're holding your arms out,

434

01:00:00.625 --> 01:00:03.324

the other person holds their arms out, that your fingers

435

01:00:03.324 --> 01:00:09.235

don't touch. I've tried to say that repeatedly for people who might not know. Not only who don't know,

436

01:00:10.405 --> 01:00:17.965

most of us, you know, don't have a clear guess when we're sitting close to someone, whether we're actually six feet from them.

437

01:00:18.204 --> 01:00:25.795

But a good measure, which I've used when I've been in small groups of people is to hold out my arms and say, you're too close.



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438

01:00:42.264 --> 01:00:54.804

Okay, so it is actually, it's 11:05am. I do want to be respectful of people's time. And so thank you for joining us today and we will talk to people again next week.

439

01:00:55.284 --> 01:01:08.934

Before we stop, though, I do want to say something, because in response to one question, I reiterated what I've tried to say, often enough and I think we get very busy. So sometimes don't, I, at least don't say it often enough.

440

01:01:09.355 --> 01:01:23.514

Not only have I been impressed with how our staff have been so flexible, but I recognize and appreciate how the provider staff have really had to step up the provider agencies. Their staff, their management.

441

01:01:24.565 --> 01:01:38.784

All of us are confronting something we have not confronted before, but it's the providers who've been on the front lines of that and are figuring it out day to day as the reality on the ground day to day changes. We really appreciate that.

442

01:01:38.844 --> 01:01:51.324

I think, you know, the, the recognition of how hard they're working and how dedicated that staff is, can't be stated strongly enough. So, I do just want to emphasize that."

443 ~ **Kirk Dobson:**

01:01:52.105 --> 01:02:02.574

"And director, if I could, just as a reminder. I saw some people sign on around 10:30am, this forum in the future will start at ten am. So, if you could please share that with people that, you know, who want to participate.

444

01:02:02.605 --> 01:02:06.025

So again ten am, from here on forward on Friday."

445 ~ **Crystal Thomas:**

01:02:07.434 --> 01:02:18.534

"And the questions are due every Wednesday by close of business. For folks who do not have access to WebEx, you can contact Charlisa,



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446 - 452

01:02:18.534 --> 01:02:19.735 - 01:02:22.195 --> 01:02:22.885

Payne at 202-442-8411

453 - 456

01:02:23.844 --> 01:02:24.204 - 01:02:24.804 --> 01:02:26.724

202-442-8411

457

01:02:27.235 --> 01:02:32.275

or you can send questions to our email at DDS@DC.gov

458

01:02:32.275 --> 01:02:39.445

by close of business on Wednesday.”

~ **Director Andrew Reese:** “Thank you.”